

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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EA - RSULLIVAN
H - DKENNEY (INFO)
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Z 190005Z JUL 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181873

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT TO SEOUL BY CONGRESSMEN HAMILTON
AND SPENCE

REFS: (A) STATE 179539; (B) STATE 179546

1. ROGER AND I MET MONDAY MORNING AND AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON
WITH CONGRESSMEN HAMILTON AND SPENCE, PETER WHITE AND GARY
HYMEL OF THE SPEAKER'S STAFF TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED
VISIT OF THE TWO CONGRESSMEN TO SEOUL PER REF A. AS A
RESULT OF THIS DISCUSSION WE HAVE A CLEARER (AND SOMEWHAT
DIFFERENT) PICTURE OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE
PROPOSED TRIP.

2. SPEAKER O'NEILL AND MINORITY LEADER RHODES ARE ASKING
PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE TO ACCEPT TWO EMISSARIES FROM
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THE LEADERSHIP AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE TO DISCUSS
THE ONGOING INVESTIGATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS
OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT. THE EMISSARIES, HAMILTON AND SPENCE,
WOULD TRAVEL TO KOREA WITHOUT STAFF.

3. YOU SHOULD SEEK AN APPOINTMENT FOR HAMILTON AND
SPENCE WITH PRESIDENT PARK. WE WILL TRANSMIT TO YOU

TOMORROW THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM O'NEILL AND RHODES TO THE PRESIDENT EXPLAINING IN BRIEF TERMS THE PURPOSE OF THE HAMILTON/SPENCE CALL. THE SIGNED ORIGINAL OF THE LETTER WILL BE CARRIED BY HAMILTON AND SPENCE. (WE HAD HOPED TO HAVE A CLEARED TEXT FOR YOU TO TRANSMIT ALONG WITH YOUR REQUEST FOR AN APPOINTMENT. IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY, HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH THE APPOINTMENT REQUEST AND SUPPLY THE TEXT OF THE LETTER LATER.) THE CONGRESSMEN ARE PREPARED TO LEAVE WASHINGTON AS EARLY AS SUNDAY JULY 23, AND THUS COULD MEET WITH PARK AS EARLY AS TUESDAY JULY 25. THEY WOULD PREFER TO BE AWAY FROM WASHINGTON AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE, SINCE THIS IS A BUSY VOTING TIME AND AN ELECTION YEAR. THEREFORE THEIR PREFERENCE IS TO TRAVEL ON THE WEEKEND AND MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT EARLY IN THE WEEK. THEY WOULD PLAN TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

4. WITH REGARD TO PUBLIC HANDLING OF THE TRIP, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ADVICE. WE SEE TWO POSSIBLE SCENARIOS. FIRST, WHILE NOT PLAYING IT AS A "SECRET MISSION", WE COULD FOREGO ADVANCE PUBLICITY. WE SEE THIS AS PERHAPS PRESERVING MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY. ALTERNATIVELY, WE COULD ANNOUNCE THE TRIP IN ADVANCE AND PORTRAY IT AS A PERSONAL APPEAL FROM THE LEADERSHIP TO PRESIDENT PARK FOR HELP. THE POSSIBLE ADVANTAGE HERE WOULD BE SAVING KOREAN FACE BY PUTTING THE US REPRESENTATIVES IN THE POSITION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SUPPLICANTS. PLEASE ADVISE.

5. THE LETTER TRANSMITTED IN REF B HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS AND SHOULD BE DISREGARDED.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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